

NCO SAVES SOLDIER, CREDITS ARMY TRAINING

Staff Sgt. Tanya Polk
4th IBCT Public Affairs

Sergeant John Huggins knew the signs. The two-time combat veteran had been thoroughly trained at detecting the

symptoms.

Army intervention classes provided this generator mechanic with enough scenarios that he was confident in his ability to help prevent someone from committing suicide, but the 4th

Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division Soldier said he never expected he'd actually have to apply that training.

"Instinct pretty much kicked in," said Sgt. Huggins, who was

pulling charge of quarters duty on Fort Stewart, April 13, when he was informed that a fellow Soldier was threatening to take his own life. "I just wanted to make sure that the Soldier had another chance."

A Soldier had essentially barricaded himself inside his second floor barracks room, making it nearly impossible for anyone to get to him, Sgt. Huggins recalled.

See Huggins, 2A

THE FRONTLINE

PRSRT STD U.S. Postage Paid
Permit no. 43,
Hinesville, Ga. 31314

VOL. 44, ISSUE 19

Serving the Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield communities • www.stewart.army.mil

Stewart-Hunter relays for life
See Page 1C



MAY 14, 2009

Marne Soldier awarded second Purple Heart

Krystal R. Britton
Fort Stewart Public Affairs

Each heart has its own story, and each Purple Heart has its own story. Captain Darren H. McDonough was awarded his second Purple Heart for being wounded by an instrument of war during combat, May 12. Many gathered to congratulate him for his service in the Patriot Auditorium at Winn Army Community

Hospital.

Capt. McDonough was wounded Oct. 5, 2008 leading a training mission for Iraqi Soldiers. He was protected by his body armor when shot, but suffered other injuries as a result of the impact.

A prior-enlisted Soldier, Capt. McDonough was shot in the neck while serving in Afghanistan, Feb. 2002. He was awarded his first Purple Heart in the field.

See PURPLE _____ **Page 10A**

Strong partnerships lead to ACOE legacy

Pat Young
Public Affairs Specialist

Demonstrating strength in partnership, Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield was supported by a myriad of state and local officials at the 2009 Army Community of Excellence Award in Washington D.C., May 6.

Accepting the ACOE's "Gold" award were Garrison Commander Todd Buchs, Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. James Erving, and Janet Blanks, Chief of Plans, Analysis and Integration Office.

Showing their support for the installation were more than 30 attendees from the 3rd Infantry Division, Georgia

State Congress, and officials from surrounding communities.

Colonel Buchs said it was a total team effort in receiving the ACOE for an unprecedented fourth time, an effort where the workforce as much as the local communities banded together to take care of customers – the Soldiers, and their Families.

"Our biggest success is that we work together, focusing on our community," Blanks said. We are one big Family. They are involved in everything we do."

The presence at the award presentation of Hinesville Mayor James Thomas, and Hinesville City Manager Billy Edwards at the awards were a testament to how that teamwork.

See ACOE _____ **Page 4A**

Ed bills, ACS accreditation benefits Soldiers, Families

Kevin Larson
Chief, Public Communications

Army Family Members are the beneficiaries of three recent events that are significant in sustaining a high quality of life for Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield. Here, Army Community Service was recently recognized as meeting and exceeding rigorous Army standards for accreditation with commendation, and Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue signed two

bills to support educational goals for Army Family Members.

Education bills assist Families

The governor signed Senate Bill 114 and House Bill 484. The senate bill eases the transfer of credits and transition into Georgia schools for school-aged children of active duty military members. Local schools are waiting for guidance from the state education department before implementing changes, installation school liaison officer Inza Downing said.

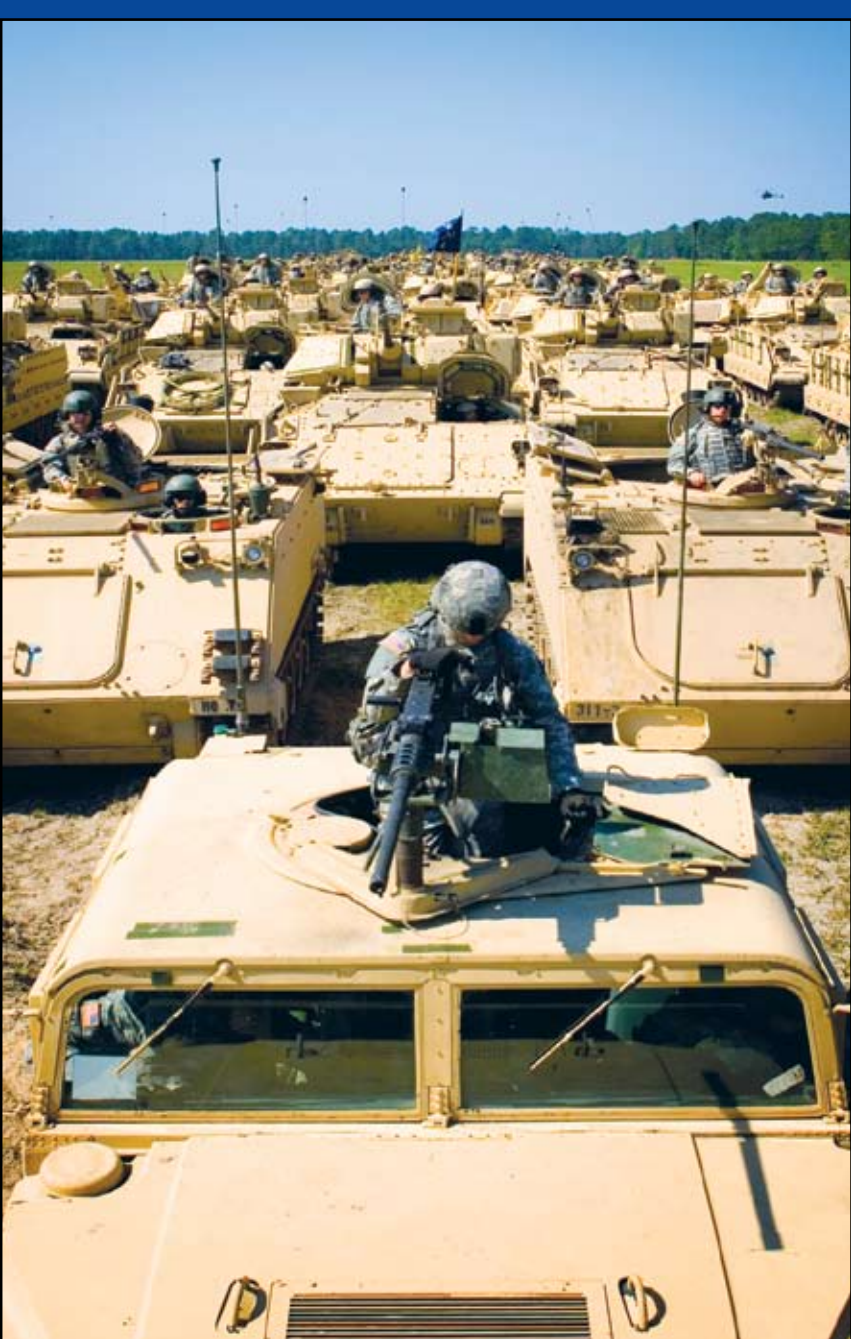
See BENEFIT _____ **Page 12A**



Capt. Charles Patterson

41ST BCT TAKES AIM

Specialist Ruben Baca, Troop C, 182 Cav., from Klamath Falls, Ore., adjusts his sites for the next few weeks of mobilization training at Fort Stewart, as he and other members of the 41st BCT (Oregon National Guard) ramp up for their deployment. Read more about the 41st BCT, Page 14A



Pfc. Gregory Gieske

Spartans roll in for pass and review

Reving up for the armored pass and review, Soldiers from 2HBCT, 3rd ID, prepare their vehicles for a Pass in Review at Fort Stewart's Taylor Creek training grounds, May 8. See story, Page 3A.

Families farewell 260th QM

Spc. Gaelen Lowers
3rd Sustainment Bde. Public Affairs

Tears fell as Soldiers hugged their loved ones goodbye. Their Families and friends waved to them as they boarded the buses and drove to the airstrip where they would head overseas for the better part of a year.

Approximately 70 Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 260th Quartermaster Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade deployed to Iraq from Hunter Army Airfield, May 9.

For many Soldiers, this will be their first deployment and are feeling anxious about heading down range. For others, Soldiers like Spc. Terry Webb, 260th QM Bn., their first deployment will not be quite as nerve racking.

"This is my first deployment, but I'm not scared or nervous," said Spc. Webb. "I'm feeling good about it and myself. I'm feeling a little carefree."

Though Soldiers were not expressing apprehension about the deployment, spouses had concerns about their first deployment separation.

See FAREWELL _____ **Page 10A**

Soldier named in highway chase

Fort Stewart Public Affairs

Specialist James J. Williams of the 3rd Sustainment Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division was identified, May 12 for his alleged involvement in Saturday's high-speed motorcycle chase on I-95 South. The pursuit resulted in the collision of four McIntosh County Sheriff patrol cars.

Speaking to members of the local media, Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo, commanding general 3rd Infantry Division, said that Spc. Williams has not yet been charged with any crimes. He continued by saying, Spc. Williams is still entitled to full due process and the Army will preserve those rights and consider him innocent until proven guilty.

See NAMED _____ **Page 11A**



CAB trains for air assault
See Page 6A

Stewart-Hunter kick off 100 days of summer safety
See story page 5A

3rd ID celebrates Onion Fest
See Page 1B





From the CSM's Desk : Summer Activities and Safety Key Points

Command Sgt. Maj. James Ervin
Garrison Command Sergeant Major

Summer time is here and beautiful coastal Georgia has plenty of outdoor activities for you and your Family to enjoy. You don't have to travel far to find great things to do. Our FMWR offers a wide variety of activities like camping, swimming, miniature golf, and spray parks at Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield. Be sure to check with Outdoor Recreation for your equipment rental needs. Safe boating classes are available at Hunter's Lott's Island, so take advantage of those before head-

ing out onto our great waterways.

If you need to beat the heat, try bowling in one of our many lanes or take the littlest Family Members to Cypress Sam's Treehouse at Fort Stewart for fun indoor play. The Corkan Family Recreation Area also offers roller skating, rock wall climbing and laser tag for everyone to enjoy. The Fort Stewart Teen Center in the Corkan area is open



and offers a first-class coffee bar, video games and dance floor with state-of-the-art sound system.

The Youth Centers at Stewart-Hunter offer clubs, computers and exciting trips for middle school and high school students. The summer programs are full of great activities to keep your children busy and sports programs are available year-round.

Keep an eye out for information on our upcoming Fourth of July celebration. Concerts, games, picnics, rides and other activities are planned for you and your Family to enjoy. Frontline, Marne TV and multiple facilities on

post will have event schedules and transportation routes available soon.

Remember that the most important thing you can do this summer is to keep yourself and your Family safe. Be sure to read your Balfour Beatty Residents Guide to ensure that you comply with their policies about swimming pools and trampolines if you live on post. And no matter where you live, exercise caution when using open flames in barbecue grills and fire pits, especially when children are nearby.

Enjoy your summer at Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield and remember to keep safety first!



YEAR OF THE NCO

Spc. Gaelen Lowers
*3rd Sustainment Bde.
 Public Affairs*

A noncommissioned officer is known as "the backbone of the Army."

According to WebMD, the backbone of any animal is the central support of the entire body.

"That entails and means a lot," said Command Sgt. Maj. Clifton Johnson, the 3rd Sustainment Brigade's command sergeant major, and the guest speaker at the 87th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion NCO Induction Ceremony, May 8. "A time-honored corps, that's what it's all about. We've been doing this thing for 250 years."

Becoming the backbone of the Army

Approximately 35 Soldiers in the 87th CSSB were inducted into the Noncommissioned Officer Corps during the ceremony.

The induction ceremony is a celebration of the newly promoted joining the ranks of a professional noncommissioned officer corps, and emphasizes and builds on the pride members share of such an elite corps.

"You have to embrace this thing," said Command Sgt. Maj. Johnson, who's been a noncommissioned officer for 26 years. "Be proud to be a noncommissioned officer. Square your shoulders back. Know that there is not a greater honor in the Army than being a noncommissioned officer."

Command Sergeant Major Johnson said

there was nothing in the world that he would rather be. Before he left, he gave the newly inducted members a bit of "growing advice."

"You can never compromise the values of the NCO Corps," said Command Sgt. Maj. Johnson. "It's deeds, not words, that make the difference. You have to make the hard right rather than the easy wrong. When you read and recite the creed, make it more than just words to you. That is what a noncommissioned officer is all about."

Spc. Gaelen Lowers

Sergeant Martin Vasquez, Jr., 87th CSSB, 3rd Sustainment Bde., is inducted into the Noncommissioned Officer Corps, May 8.



HUGGINS

from Page 1A

"He had his mind set," the noncommissioned officer said of the Soldier's intent to commit suicide, "Even just trying to get the door open so the (military police) could come in and take care of the situation was not an option."

But the challenge didn't deter Sgt. Huggins from using any means necessary to get the Soldier the help he needed. Using a step ladder off a contractor's truck, Sgt. Huggins climbed through the Soldier's barrack's window.

"I tried to keep the situation as calm as I could, keep his attention on me," Sgt. Huggins said as he put to use "ACE," the Army's suicide prevention methodology, until military police arrived.

ACE, which stands for Ask, Care, and Escort, reminds troops to ask their buddy if he or she is thinking about attempting to commit suicide, care for their buddy by calmly controlling a situation, and escort their buddy to a behavioral health professional when necessary.

Sergeant Huggins said he knew it was his duty to care for the Soldier and credits recent suicide prevention training for mentally preparing him to intervene.

"The classes that the Army has been teaching helped out a lot," he said.

The 3rd ID and Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield joined the Armywide fight to combat rising Soldier suicides with a "stand-down" suicide prevention class, March 5. The class was intended to help increase Soldiers' awareness of suicidal behavior through an interactive video entitled Beyond the Front. The video introduces warning signs of suicide and encourages Soldiers to be proactive and seek help.

The Marne Division has continued to train troops quarterly on suicide prevention, including a more recent video entitled "ShouldertoShoulder — No Soldier Stands Alone."

"(The training) allows people to open up and talk about things that they may not talk about in other venues," said Capt. Robert Gordon, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th IBCT commander, who added that Sgt. Huggins is proof that the Army's suicide intervention classes are an effective approach to preventing Soldier suicides.

"Sergeant Huggins put himself in danger to protect the life of another Soldier,"



Staff Sgt. Tanya Polk

Major General Tony Cucolo, 3rd ID commander, awards Sgt. John Huggins the Army Commendation Medal at Fort Stewart's Lt. Col. Keith L. Ware C2 Facility, April 30, for his actions which contributed to saving the life of a fellow Soldier.

Capt. Gordon said. "That, to me, shows what being a Soldier is about, what a Soldier should be, and what we look for in NCOs. The standards and the values that he has and what he stands for is what we should all strive to have."

Major General Tony Cucolo awarded Sgt. Huggins for his standards and values with the Army Commendation Medal at Fort Stewart's Lt. Col. Keith L. Ware Command and Control Facility, April 30. The 3rd ID commanding general said Sgt. Huggins embodied all of the Army Values and

proved that Soldiers like World War II hero Audie Murphy still exist in today's ranks.

Though grateful to have been awarded for his actions, Sgt. Huggins said he was just doing his job as an NCO. He advises his peers to be proactive in preventing Soldier suicides.

"Follow your instincts," he said. "You know what feels right; you just have to exercise it. These are the Soldiers who are defending our country, and we as leaders need to make sure they are taken care of."

Suicide Prevention Sources

Stewart-Hunter continues to offer local support resources to help prevent Soldier suicides. The Division Mental Health can be reached by calling 767-7301 or 767-5718; the U.S. Medical Activity Department's Behavioral Health — Clinic's telephone numbers are 767-1647/1654; and Tuttle's Behavioral Health Clinic can be reached at 315-6430.

Army Community Service also lends its support; call 767-5808/5809 for ACS-Stewart or 315- 6816 for ACS-Hunter. Fort Stewart's Army Substance Abuse Program can be reached by calling 767- 5265/5267.

Other contact information includes the following:

- **Military One Source**
1-800-342-9647
- **National Suicide Prevention Hotline** 1-800- 273 TALK (8255)
- **Department of Veterans' Affairs Suicide Prevention Hotline** 1-800-273-TALK (8255)
- **VA Readjustment Counseling Services** 1-800- 827-1000, www.va.gov/rsc
- **American Legion Family Support Network** 1-800-504-4098 familysupport@legion.org
- **National Military Family Association, Alexandria, Va.** 1-800-260-0218
- **Wounded Soldier and Family Hotline — has a 24- hour, 7-days-a-week operation.** Call 1-800 984-8523 or DSN 328-0002.

This week in Marne History: Marne Memorial Garden is dedicated

Dr. Judith Brown
Fort Stewart Museum

One of the most important sites at Fort Stewart is Marne Garden, near building 1, the 3rd Infantry Division headquarters. There, the Division cases and uncases its flags when it deploys and returns from deployment. There, the streamer for the Iraq campaigns was added to the division colors in June 2008. There many change-of-command and other ceremonies are held. This week in 1965 the original Marne Memorial Garden was dedicated in Germany on May 14.

The Marne Memorial Garden was the brainchild of Maj. Gen. Albert O. Connor, commander of the 3rd ID from March 1964-Feb. 1966. He wanted to honor the then 49 members of the Division who had been awarded the Medal of Honor for their service in World War I, World War II, and the Korean War. In Jan. 1965, he began a fund-raising drive that resulted in the creation of the "Marne Memorial Garden" near the headquarters of the 3rd Infantry Division at Leighton Barracks, outside the city of Würzburg, West Germany, where the 3rd ID had been stationed since 1958. Five months after the fund drive began, the Marne Memorial Garden was dedicated. It was dominated by a stone obelisk with a vaguely soldier-shaped form behind it. A plaque affixed to the front began with the words "Marne Division May 1965"

and continued: "Dedicated to past and future members of the 3d United States Infantry Division with special recognition for those gallant Soldiers awarded the Medal of Honor while serving in the Marne Division." There were also three bronze plaques on smaller stones, one for each war in which the 3rd ID had served to date with the names of the Medal of Honor awardees for each war.

In February 1970, when Maj. Gen. George Seignious, Jr. was commanding the 3rd ID, a second monument was added to the Marne Memorial Garden, a three-foot high statue of Rocky. This was based on the caricature that Maj. Gen. Connor had commissioned from Walt Disney Productions for \$1. Connor's request was that Rocky be depicted as "heroic but humble, fierce but gentle, quick-witted but wise, with a confidence that comes from having proved himself." The statue did this.

The Marne Memorial Garden remained in Würzburg with the 3rd ID for the remainder of its time in Germany. In 1996 when the 3rd ID came to Fort Stewart, the obelisk, the Rocky statue and the bronze plaques came with it. Unfortunately, the Rocky statue was broken in the transport. However, personnel from the Fort Stewart Transportation Support Center were ultimately able to repair it. A new Marne Garden was created, again near the 3rd ID's building 1. At a dedication ceremony Maj.

Gen. James C. Riley, 3rd ID commanding general from Oct. 1997-Dec. 1999, cut the ribbon for the Marne Garden and Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth R. Sponsler unveiled Rocky. In his remarks, Maj. Gen. Riley said, "This Garden is a place for us to remember all those who have served before." It continues to serve that function today.



Courtesy Photo

President of the Society of the 3rd ID, Martin Markley, then 3rd ID Commander, Maj. Gen James Riley, and then Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Sponsler lay a wreath at the Marne Garden obelisk, May 1996.

Spartans celebrate VE Day in style

Spc. Dustin Gautney
2nd HBCT Public Affairs

More than 200 combat vehicles roared to life with the sudden proclamation of "Pass in Review," from the reviewing officer, only to be followed by the cheers of Soldiers, Family and friends as they were treated to a rare event as the Spartan Brigade preformed a Mounted Pass in Review in celebration of Victory in Europe Day during a ceremony held at Fort Stewart's Taylor's Creek training grounds, May 8.

To celebrate the anniversary of VE-Day, the day World War II Allies formally accepted the unconditional surrender of the armed forces of Germany and the end of Adolf Hitler's Third Reich, the Spartan Brigade performed a mounted pass in review, something rarely seen outside of a combat zone, and steeped in World War II traditions.

"What we are doing here is a piece of history, just like in 2003 as we prepared to march into Iraq

with many hours coordinating the movement of vehicles with the use of Unmanned Ariel Vehicles," said Col. Charles E.A. Sexton, commander, 2nd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division.

The mounted pass in review, refined by General George S. Patton, displays a high level of skill and coordination to maneuver large numbers of dangerous combat vehicles safely. Having the event at Fort Stewart allowed Family and friends to see what their husbands, wives, sons, and daughters do for a living and what they are capable of accomplishing, said Col. Sexton.

"The true power in this formation is the Soldiers themselves. The vehicles, as mighty as they are, are nothing more than bolts and steel without the Soldiers to power them," Col. Sexton said. "It is important that Families and friends are out here to see what we do; they are what allow us to be the most lethal fighting force ever assembled."



Photos by Pfc. Gregory Gieske

Above: Ready to get going, Sgt. Todd Ryan, Co. A, 1/9 Field Artillery, 2nd HBCT, 3rd ID, looks to his battle buddy for a final check just before they roll out for the 2nd HBCT's armored pass in review at Fort Stewart, May 8.

Left: Hanging out under the camouflaged netting, children get a close up view of the vast variety of tanks, trucks, and unique military vehicles 2nd HBCT, 3rd ID uses on a day-to-day basis to complete the mission at Fort Stewart's Taylors Creek training grounds, May 8.



Veteran Jim Wilson shares his Family history with the 3rd ID with his grandsons. Jake, 4 (left), and Allen, 8, watch as the long train of heavy armored vehicles pass by during the 2nd HBCT, 3rd ID's pass in review at Fort Stewart, May 8.



Shaken by the rumble of the Abrams, Paladins, and Mortar Carriers, a young girl watches as the massive line of fast-moving vehicles go by for the pass in review hosted by 2nd HBCT, 3rd ID at Fort Stewart, May 8.



Rolling down the red dirt road, operators of tanks and heavy armored machines proudly show Family and friends sitting in the stands the vehicles they use to complete tasks that require the skill and discipline of a Soldier during a pass and review hosted by 2nd HBCT, May 8.

BARRACK'S LIFE: PT good for Soldiers, Army

Spc. Michael Adams
3rd Infantry Division Public Affairs

The Army requires its Soldiers to pass a physical training test and to meet height and weight standards, based on age and gender. In order for servicemembers to maintain the standard, Soldiers are required to conduct PT every morning of a duty day. But should we stay in shape solely for the purposes of keeping up with Army standards?

Keeping in shape does more than keep you out of trouble with the Army. It helps you to live longer, it gives you a better piece of mind, gives you more self-confidence and helps you to be a more well-rounded person. At one of my first briefings as a Soldier, the command sergeant

major of my battalion in South Korea told us that morning PT is only designed to sustain its Soldiers and continued by saying if we wanted to really get in shape, we had to work out on our own.

I found out he was right. Exercising with my unit was not enough. I was about 30 pounds overweight, and I struggled sometimes even walking. I was not only upset for not meeting Army standards, but I was more upset I didn't meet my own standards.

I decided to change. I worked out all the time. On weekends, I rarely went out; all I did was run. When I got tired, I would



walk. I just wanted to keep moving. I went to the gym and lifted weights and I changed my diet. I lost weight and eventually met the goals I set out to achieve. I passed my PT test and met my height and weight requirement. Everyone commented to me that I had lost weight and that I looked good.

At times, it was very difficult. It is very hard to cut back on all the food I previously ate. Pushing myself through the pain and soreness of running so much seemed so pointless at times. I grew to learn the pain was temporary but getting myself in shape was

very important for me to be a healthy person, not only now but when I get old as well.

While I was happy with what I did personally, meeting the Army standards were also very important. Getting chaptered out of the military due to not meeting physical fitness or weight standards could mean that I could lose my GI Bill, or receive an other than honorable discharge, making it difficult to find work once I left from the Army.

At one point, getting myself in shape seemed like a nearly impossible task. But with hard work and dedication, I achieved my goals. Keeping yourself in shape not only helps you meet Army standards, but helps you to raise your own standards and live a better life.

Asian-Pacific Soldier following father's footsteps

Pfc. Crystal M. Bradley
2nd BCT Public Affairs

Many little boys spend a great deal of their time dreaming to one day be just like their fathers.

One sergeant at Fort Stewart no longer dreams of following in his dad's footsteps. He walks in them everyday.

From living the life of a "Dog-Face Soldier," to enjoying his Army career as a Guamanian-American Soldier, Sgt. Danny Babauta, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, carries on the legacy of his father and other Asian-Pacific Soldiers.

Sergeant Babauta, born at Fort Lewis, Wash., said his dad definitely influ-

enced him to join the Army, but his undying love for America and the Pacific island of Guam gave him the final boost he needed to enlist.

"I was born in the U.S. but spent the majority of my life living in Guam after my dad retired," he said. "I came to the states in July 2007 because I wanted my family to experience the states as I had."

As an Asian-Pacific Soldier, Sgt. Babauta said he has found ways to use his ethnicity to not only heighten his career but also to help Soldiers around him.

"I always have Soldiers saying 'Oh, sergeant, you bring so much motivation to our platoon!' I try to bring happiness to Soldiers I work around every day; you know, make sure everyone is

smiling," he said. "That's how it was when I was growing up back in Guam. Everyone always kept each other's spirits up."

According to Sgt. Babauta, having a strong work ethic and taking pride in what he does comes directly as a result of his heritage and rearing.

"I take a lot of pride in being a Soldier," he said. "I try to do everything by the book, leaving little room for error, and it really shows. Because of this, the Soldiers to my left and right seem to have lots of respect for me. I try to be a constant role model for them."


Sergeant Babauta said that being different is a good thing, regardless whether you are Asian-Pacific, African-American, Hispanic or any other

nationality. Soldiers get to learn new things and profit from the unique traits that each group of people bring to the table.

"It's a great thing for everyone to get to experience different ethnicities," he said. "It makes everyone more culturally aware. You get a chance to not only become a better Soldier but also a better person, in general."

The sergeant said that at the end of the day, the most important factor is that one always remembers where they come from.

"Being proud of where you are from is always a great thing," said Sgt. Babauta. "Whether you are from a small town in the United States or a small village in Guam, being proud of your home can take you a long way in life."



Lynda Purcell, ACS Marketing

MILITARY SPOUSES CELEBRATE

Meoshia Dossie and her son, David, cut the first slice of cake in honor of Military Spouse Appreciation Day at Fort Stewart's post exchange, May 8. Meoshia is the spouse of Sgt. Clarence Dossie, HHC, 3/69th Armor.

ACOE

from Page 1A

Thomas said one of the strengths of coastal Georgia was the bond shared with Fort Stewart, noting partnership programs like the Joint Use Agreement for the MidCoast Regional Airport at Wright Army Airfield was an example of that cooperation.

The mayor also said in that same venue, a transit system would soon be available to customers in the Liberty County area in October/November, thanks in part to the recent national stimulus package. He said the new transit system would benefit Soldiers and civilians alike.

Tom Frye, Acting Director for Public Works at Stewart-Hunter, who also attended the event, said the partnership with neighboring communities was invaluable. He said their continued support with programs like the Joint Land Use Study, the Army Compatible Use Buffer Program, and the enhanced

use/lease at Wright Army Airfield help Stewart-Hunter remain good stewards of the environment, while ensuring the installation maintains its capability to continue its mission well into the future.

Third Infantry Division Command Sgt. Maj. Jesse Andrews said the installation winning the Army Community of Excellence is important Soldiers.

"This is the Year of the NCO, and one of the things we are promoting is for Soldiers to understand legacy, and to help keep our community and installation an Army Community of Excellence," he said.

The Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield Garrison NCO of the Year, Sergeant Leah Paden, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, was among those in attendance.

Sergeant Paden said the event would be memorable, not only as because it was the

occasion of the installation earning the ACOE, but personally because it was the first time she visited the nation's capital.


Sergeant Paden, originally from San Bernardino, Calif., was named Garrison NCO of the Year, April 21. She said seeing the experience would join her other favored memories of attending airborne school and deploying with a personal security detail to Iraq.

Command Sergeant Major Andrews said winning the ACOE, after the Stewart-Hunter sat out of the competition for two years, validated that the installation is grounded in teamwork, especially in light of Stewart-Hunter winning the event in 2004, 2005 and 2006.


Andrews said that teamwork continues to make Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield the Southern Living Station of Choice.

Marne Voices Speak Out What summer safety tips do you have for Soldiers and Families?

"Wear your seatbelt and never drink and drive."



Private Coty Brown
3/17th CAV



"Don't eat and swim, always use the battle buddy system, and don't swim alone."

Spc. David Villa
416th Transportation

"Not just for summer — do not drink and drive; we need you here alive."



Fredrick M. Carew, Sr.
DOL



"With Memorial Day weekend coming up, drive safe and do not drink and drive."

Rosie Cooke
DES

"Make sure you use your sun block. If you have kids, you have to have the right protection for them."



Spc. Joshua Kreisman
416th Transportation



"One of the safest things to do is to drink plenty of water; put down the alcohol, and pick up the H2O."

Sgt. Marion Brittain
603rd ASB / 3rd CAB

Voice your opinion!
Write a letter to the editor!

Send to:
Marne TV & The Frontline
Attn: The Frontline, Editor
112 Vilseck Rd., Suite 109
Fort Stewart, Ga. 31314
or email to:
stewfrontline@conus.army.mil
or fax it to 912-767-9366
visit www.stewart.army.mil

The Frontline

112 Vilseck Rd., Suite 109
Building. 419
Ft. Stewart, Ga. 31314

©2007

ADVERTISING: (912) 368-0526
THE Frontline OFFICE: 767-5669
HUNTER NEWS BUREAU: 315-5617

This civilian enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the Frontline are not necessarily the official views of, or are endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, or U.S. Forces Command. It is published weekly by the Public Affairs Office, Fort Stewart, Georgia. 31314-5000. All editorial content of the Frontline newspaper is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the Public Affairs Office of Fort Stewart, Georgia and the 3rd Infantry Division, and is printed by Morris Newspaper Corporation of Hinesville, Inc., a private firm in no way connected with the Department of the Army, under exclusive written contract with Fort Stewart, Georgia. The civilian printer is responsible for commercial advertising. Subscription rates are \$12/3 months, \$20/six months and \$36 for 12 months. Rates are Third Class mail inside the continental U.S.

3RD INFANTRY DIVISION COMMANDER MAJ. GEN. TONY CUCOLO
GARRISON COMMANDER COL. TODD A. BUCHS

3rd ID PAO — Maj. Jeff Allen
3rd ID NCOIC — Master Sgt. Marcia Triggs
3rd ID staff writer — Spc. Michael Adams
1st Bde. NCOIC — Sgt. Jonathon Jobson
1st Bde. staff writer — Pfc. Jared Eastman
2nd Bde. NCOIC — Sgt. Jason Stadel
2nd Bde. staff writer — Spc. Dustin Gautney
2nd Bde. staff writer — Pfc. Crystal Bradley
3rd Bde. NCOIC — Staff Sgt. Natalie Rostek
3rd Bde. staff writer — Spc. Ben Hutto
3rd Bde. staff writer — Pfc. Erik Anderson
3rd Sust. Bde. NCOIC — Sgt. 1st Class Rhonda Lawson
3rd Sust. Bde. staff writer — Spc. Gaelen Lowers
4th Bde. NCOIC — Staff Sgt. Tanya Polk
4th Bde. staff writer — Spc. Amanda McBride
Avn. Bde. NCOIC — Sgt. 1st Class Kim Green
Avn. Bde. staff writer — Spc. Monica Smith

Garrison PAO — Rich Olson
Command Information Officer — Jim Jeffcoat

Editorial/Design Staff
Managing Editor — Jessica Obermeyer
Editor — Sgt. Joseph McAtee
Public Affairs Specialist — Jennifer Hartwig
Public Affairs Specialist — Randy Murray
Production Manager — Sherron Walker
Advertising Mgr. — Cynthia Barnes

Hunter Army Airfield Public Affairs
Hunter Army Airfield PAO — Steven Hart
Assistant PAO — Nancy Gould
Public Affairs Specialist — Kaytrina Curtis

Stewart-Hunter Safety Day jumpstarts Army's safe summer campaign

Spc. Amanda McBride
4th IBCT Public Affairs

The 3rd Infantry Division and FortStewart-HunterArmyAirfield is committed to keeping safety first and launched the Army's annual 101 Critical Days of Summer Safety campaign, May 6.

The 101 Critical Days of Summer Safety is the time period between Memorial Day and Labor Day where Soldiers, their Family Members and Army Civilians are statistically at greater risk to accidents and mishaps, according to the U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center.

"(The days between Memorial Day and Labor Day) create a little more of a risk because we tend to be outdoors more, and because of that, we have to recognize those risks associated with our day-to-day activities," said Fort

Stewart Installation Safety Office Director James McCullough.

McCullough joined the Marne Division's effort to illustrate the most common risks associated with the summer season as he and the Installation Safety staff hosted a post-wide safety day complete with awareness programs and hands-on activities.

One of the main emphases at this year's safety day was driving under the influence prevention. Stewart - Hunter military police showed Soldiers the negative effects of alcohol as Troops tried to walk in a straight line and maneuver a go-cart through cones while wearing Fatal Vision Goggles or "beer goggles." The goggles distort Soldiers' vision to simulate the effects of drunkenness and demonstrate low, moderate, high and extreme blood alcohol content.

Specialist Jessica Ulmer, assigned to Headquarters and

Headquarters Company, 4th Infantry Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd ID, said the simplest decision one can make is to not drink and drive.

"You've got all sorts of people you can call and talk to that can give you a ride," Spc. Ulmer said. "You can call a taxi. Even (military units) have funds set up for people that have no way back (home). It's too simple to call up a buddy, call up staff duty and say, 'Come and get me.'"

Specialist Ulmer's urge to prevent others from driving under the influence goes hand-in-hand with what Mothers Against Drunk Driving representatives told Soldiers during safety day.

Melissa Avery-Dumas, retired Army master sergeant, spoke about the consequences of drinking and driv-

ing and advised Soldiers to act responsibly.

"I want you to think about what you are doing when you are off duty," she said.

Avery-Dumas lost her husband, John, to a drunk-driving accident. She is now a spokesperson through MADD and hopes her story will prevent others from driving under the influence of alcohol.

"You're taught as a Soldier that when someone dies in combat to recover the dead and keep pushing, and that's what I am doing," Avery-Dumas said. "I'm speaking

for John because John can't speak for himself anymore, and that's what he would have done for me."

In addition to DUI prevention, the safety day featured motorcycle and all-terrain vehicle safety, boating and swimming safety, handgun safety, hurricane awareness and heat injury prevention.

For more information on the Army's 101 Critical Days of Summer Safety campaign, visit <https://crc.army.mil>, or for information regarding future safety day events, call the Installation Safety Office at 767-7880.



Spc. Amanda McBride

Private First Class Bryan Denning, 3/69th Armor Regt., 1st HBCT loses control of the Simulated Impaired Driving Experience, an electronically operated go-cart that demonstrates what a high level of intoxication can do to a driver, while wearing Fatal Vision Goggles at Stewart-Hunter's Safety Day, May 6.

Sledgehammers ready for 100 days of summer

Jim Messer
3rd HBCT Safety Officer

FORT BENNING, Ga. – The Sledgehammer Brigade is entering the 100 days of summer, and we just surpassed the 100 day marker of being "Fatality Free," since the loss of a Sledgehammer Soldier.

The Sledgehammer Brigade will be focused on two critical training events during the summer months. These two training events are Hammer Focus and training at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., which will continue to test the limits of Sledgehammer Soldiers. Dehydration will become one of the critical factors. during these events

Soldiers and leaders alike must remain vigilant and continue to incorporate in their Composite Risk Management plans for first aid to treat Soldiers who fall victim of potential heat exhaustion or heat stroke.

More than one hundred days ago, a Sledgehammer Soldier died as a result of single car rollover. The loss of this Soldier will be felt for a very long time. This unfortunate accident a reminder to all Soldiers, regardless of rank, to let others know their tentative destination, potential return times, and to maintain situational awareness of changing road conditions. Also drive speeds suited for road conditions.

An additional reminder as the brigade

approaches the 100 days of summer, beyond the focus of training, is personal safety. Motorcycle safety is for the everyday rider and the seasonal rider. Complete the required training, wear personal protective equipment and conduct maintenance inspections prior to riding.

Soldiers should keep safety issues in mind, including:

1. Water Safety (swimming, boating, fishing). Always use the required floatation devices and take extra precautions on the water.
2. ATV riding requires the same PPE and required training as motorcycle riding.
3. BBQ safety is important for those

who may not use their BBQs year round. Inspect them and replace worn propane hoses, igniters, and burners as necessary.

4. Extreme sports such as drag racing, rock climbing, sky diving, to name a few, have their own inherent risks. Please keep safety first.

The 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team Safety Office wants to remind Soldiers during these months to stop and think about those things they normally take for granted and realize the potential hazards that can occur in a blink of an eye. We do not want to lose any Sledgehammer Soldiers due to any accident or injury that could have been prevented if they had only stopped to think.



Ft. Stewart/Hunter Morale, Welfare & Recreation

Remembrance: A Memorial' Exhibit Workshop @ Stewart
19 May, 4-6 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. – Youth Center, Bldg 7338
Participants learn how to create figurative sculpture for display in "Remembrance: A Memorial" exhibit honoring fallen service members from Iraq and Afghanistan wars. Workshop open to all ages. Exhibit, presented by the Savannah District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, will be at the Coastal Georgia Center, 305 Fahm St. in Savannah, from 22 May to 30 June. More workshop info: 767-4316.

Cypress Creek Waterpark Opens @ Corkan Recreation
20 May-30 Sept, 11:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.
"The Springs" Water Spray Park. Cypress Creek, Bldg 448
Cost \$1 (ages 3-12) and free (ages under 3) with paying adult. Parental/adult supervision required.
For details, call 767-9884.

Pre-Teen Dance @ FS,
22 May, 7-10 p.m. – Youth Center, Bldg 7338
Pre-Teens (grades 6-8) invited to Latin Night! Cost \$3 (CYSS members) and \$5 (non-members). 767-4491

Summer Splash 09 Outdoor Pool Openings @ FS & HAAF
23 May
(FS) 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., Corkan & Bryan Village Outdoor Pools, 767-3033.
(HAAF) 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., Hunter Outdoor Pool (adjacent to Bldg 6015), 315-2019.
Celebrate start of summer pool season. Various activities scheduled throughout day, cookout and opportunity to purchase 2009 season pool pass. No charge to participate in opening.
Open to all DoD ID cardholders. Guests of authorized users are invited.

Corkan's Mini 500 Speedway Race
24 May, 8-9 p.m. – Cypress Creek Adventure (Mini) Golf, Bldg 448
Heard of Indy 500? Well, this is the Corkan Mini 500. All persons with remote-controlled cars are invited to bring them and race for the best time. Winner awarded a Corkan Family Pass valued at \$70.
Cost \$2 per person racing. Spectators can watch for free. 767-6708

Summer Reading Program Registration @ FS Library
27 May, 3:30 p.m. – George P. Hays Library, Bldg 411
Children receive reading list, special book bags, etc. for Summer Reading Program. 767-2828

Movie and Moonlite Skating @ Corkan Recreation
29 May, 11 p.m. - 1 a.m. – Corkan Family Fun Centers, Bldg 449
Let's mix your favorites with movie and skating. Let down your hair and let it blow with roller skating and maybe your favorite movie shown. Cost \$5 per person (includes skate rental). Kids, remember to bring Mom and Dad if you plan to attend. For details, call 767-9884.

Deep Sea Fishing Trip Sign-Up
Registraton deadline 30 May; Trip 25 July, 5 a.m.- 6 p.m.
Approximately 30 miles off Georgia coast
Depart early morning from FS Leisure Travel office, Bldg 443 for Lazaretto Creek, Savannah.
Fish off Georgia coast for barracuda, sea bass, shark and snapper. Must have Georgia fishing license (see Pass & Permit Office). Cost \$175 per person includes pole and bait, plus transportation to marina.
Small cooler with lunch, snacks and drinks allowed. For details, call 767-8609.

Junior Wildlife Drawing Contest @ FS
Sign-up Deadline 3 June – Pass & Permit Office, Bldg 8032
Children (ages 2-13) invited to enter Junior Wildlife Drawing Contest. All entries displayed and winners (1st, 2nd, 3rd) announced at 6 June FS Youth Fishing Derby. Prizes awarded. Entry fee \$5 per person.
For details, call 435-8033.

Aviation Soldiers train on air assault



Spc. Monica K. Smith
CAB Public Affairs

A Black Hawk landed on the soft ground, the cargo door flew open and Soldiers poured out, running to the tree line in search of opposition forces. It was high intensity training for Soldiers in 4th Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment at Fort Stewart, April 8.

"The goal is two fold," said Capt. Joseph Pruitt, commander of Company E, 4-3 Avn. "It allows the flight companies to develop the capability to execute missions with very shortened planning timelines and also to develop the capability to do reconnaissance and over-the-shoulder support which are missions they haven't done in the past. For E Co., it's to develop ground tactical planning and limited offensive capability."

The training, which ended April 16, included scenarios involving the companies searching for a

high value individual. The flight companies were briefed on the mission and hours later they, along with the ground forces, boarded their aircraft and set out to Fort Stewart. Once at the exercise site, the pilots and crew chiefs conducted an aerial reconnaissance to look for possible locations to insert ground forces.

"As the ground forces were on the ground (the air crews) provided security and high-up eyes on movement of enemy forces, providing information to the ground units about enemy forces," said Capt. Pruitt. "For the E Co. platoon, what they were getting was being able to take in and assess information, and pursue a ground target. They had to conduct two squad level assaults and keep communication between the squads as they were operating independently."

Sergeant 1st Class Virgil Green, maintenance platoon leader and noncommissioned officer in charge

of the ground forces, said the training gave the Soldiers many different types of scenarios, locations and situations, making the missions more complex as the training progressed.

"The importance of this training was to give our leaders and Soldiers the confidence and some experience they might need to adapt to what the enemy might do and to instill that the best made plans don't always work because the enemy always has a vote," he said.

"I think the flight companies and E Co., learn a little bit more every time we go out and do this," said Capt. Pruitt. "In fact, as everyone learns more, we make the missions more complex to challenge the flight crews and ground squads a little more. Everyone is coming away from every iteration of (high intensity) training more knowledgeable and more capable in their abilities."

Spc. Monica K. Smith

Soldiers guard their prisoners while waiting for a Black Hawk to land during high intensity training, April 8 at Fort Stewart.

Radio stations tune into Hammer Focus

Spc. Ben Hutto
3rd HBCT Public Affairs

FORT BENNING, Ga. – Three local radio deejays came out to witness first hand Hammer Focus, the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division's largest field exercise at Fort Benning, Ga., at the Selby Military Operations in Urban Terrain site, May 5.

Damon Free, a deejay with Q 107.3; Brian Thomas, a deejay

with Kissin' Country 99.3; and Al Haynes, a deejay with 95.3 The Ride; all watched as Soldiers from Company C, 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment cleared rooms and battled mock insurgents during a training exercise at the MOUT site.

"You read about it in the news, but to actually see what these guys go through first hand; it is amazing," said Thomas. "What we saw was about as close as you can get to actual combat. I was

impressed."

Hayes said he was fascinated by what he saw.

"It looked like chaos to me," he said. "I knew there was a methodology to it, but I had never seen it. Being here let me see the method behind the madness. Before any of it ever started, the Soldiers knew what to do."

Free thinks that the experience will allow him to better connect with his listeners.

"A lot of our listeners are

Soldiers, but a significant number are also military wives," he said. "We always try to support and connect with them. It will be really cool to be able to tell them that I saw what their husbands are doing."

Hayes pointed out that any way he can connect with Fort Benning's military Families is a good thing.

"Of course, most of our listeners are very pro-military," he said. "In addition to supporting

them, we try to support their Families. I realize that when the Soldiers deploy, they are leaving behind Families. Families that really don't get the credit they deserve. They have a hard job to."

Haynes agreed.

"We need to give all of them, Soldiers and their Families, a whole lot of respect," he said. "Unless you are in the military, it is hard to understand the sacrifice they are making."

Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield Briefs

Weekend dining facility hours posted

The Fort Stewart Weekend dining facility for May 16 - 17 is Raider Dining Facility, building 642, and also the Provider Dining Facility, building 726. Fort Stewart dining facility weekend serving hours are 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for brunch, and 3:30-5:30 p.m. for supper. The Hunter Army Airfield Weekend dining facility for May 9-10 is the Combat Aviation Brigade Dining Facility, building 1213. Hunter Army Airfield dining facility weekend serving hours are 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for brunch, and 3:30-5:00 p.m. for supper.

The Warrior Transition Battalion Dining Facility, building 12902/02 in the National Guard training area is open on weekends. The WTB serving hours are breakfast, 8-9:30 a.m.; lunch, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.; and dinner, 5-6:30 p.m.

Command Weather Briefings scheduled

Fort Stewart Hurricane/Severe Weather Awareness Briefings for Soldiers, Family Members, Family Readiness Groups and Department of the Army Civilians will be held, 6-8 p.m. at Moon Theater, building 704, May 19 .

Hunter Army Airfield's briefing will be 6-8 p.m., today at The Hunter Club, building 6015. DFMWR/CYS will provide free child care starting at 5:30 p.m. at building 1284, first come first serve.

Please call the Fort Stewart CDC at 767-3202, or the Hunter CDC, building 1284, at 315-6115 for information on free child care.

For more information about the briefings or to schedule a separate briefing for your FRG, unit or directorate, call Tony Fleeger at 767-2583 for Fort Stewart or Leandre Anderson at 315-6904 for Hunter Army Airfield.

Car show slated

Southern Cruisers' 18th Annual Car, Truck, Cycle Show Free for Active-Duty Military and Family members will be held at 11:30 a.m., Saturday, at Kiwanis-Ogeechee Fairgrounds, Statesboro, Ga. For more information, call 912-764-3523 or go to *www.statesborocruisers.org*

Stewart East 7th Street permanently closed

East 7th St. between French Rd. and Niles Ave. is permanently closed due to the construction of the new Soldier Family Assistance Center. Detour signs and traffic control devices will be displayed for the duration of the construction.

Motorists are encouraged to avoid this area to minimize traffic congestion and to be alert to changes in traffic patterns around this area.

For more information, contact Terry Wheeler, Army Corps of Engineers, at 228-7451.

Shoppette undergoes construction

The Victory Shoppette is being renovated through June 30. The gas pumps are closed, and the store will close Friday, until June 25. For more information, call 876-8434.

BOSS Showdown III talent show slated

The BOSS Showdown III will be held 7-9 p.m., June 13 at Rocky's. Anyone over the age of 18 is welcome to show off their individual talent at the Festival of Arts Competition. To register to compete, call the BOSS office at 767-9917.

Road under construction

West 18th St. is scheduled to be closed, 4:30 p.m., Tuesday through 5 a.m. on Friday. Detour signs and traffic control devices will be displayed for closure duration. Call Terry Wheeler, Army Corps of Engineers, at 228-7451 for more information.

Water outage scheduled

There is a scheduled water outage from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., May 28 at Wright Army Airfield. Subject outage is necessary to make repairs to Pump House Piping at building 7731. Outage will affect all buildings at WAAF, to include the Fire Department, Dog Kennels, Control Tower and Community Airfield.

POC regarding more information relative to the above is Mr. Walt Nadolski at 228-7092.

We appreciate your patience during this construction effort.

Case lot sale planned

Fort Stewart's commissary will be having a case lot sale this Thursday and Friday.

Babysitting classes offered

The Fort Stewart babysitting course is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., June 8-9 and June 22-23 at the Youth Center, building 7338. For more information, call 767-2312.

There is no charge for the training.

Upon completion of all required training, teens will receive a Red Cross first aid/infant and child CPR certification.

Hunter Courses open to new drivers

Registration is now open to new drivers ages 14-20 to participate in "PRIDE," Parents Reducing Injuries and Driver Error, a two-and-a-half hour class offered in Pooler and in Richmond Hill.

The program teaches the science behind collisions and the effects of unrestrained occupants. Classes will be held today in Richmond Hill; June 11 and July 16 in Pooler.

Call Susan Willis, 912-756-5645, or email *wanderson@pooler-ga.gov* to register for the Pooler class.

For Richmond Hill registration, email *swillis@richmondhill-ga.gov* or call 912-756-5645.

Billy Mitchell Blvd closed

Billy Mitchell Blvd. is closed for construction south of its southernmost entrance to Tominac Fitness Center, to its intersection with Hickam Blvd.

Billy Mitchell Blvd. is also closed at its intersection with William Barksdale Circle.

Fire Warden training announced

Fire Warden Training is conducted the first Thursday of each month at 9 a.m., in building 1295, on Hunter Army Airfield. Call 315-5075 to reserve a seat.

Fire wardens must be appointed for buildings in accordance with chapter 25-24 of Army Regulation 420-1, and Fort Stewart Regulation 420-11, chapter 22.

Female distance runners wanted

A Marne Team in the Female Masters Division for the Army 10-Miler competition is being formed. A spot has been reserved for a Female Masters Marne Team for the

race that will take place in Washington, D.C., Oct. 4. Any interested 40-or-over female who is assigned to the 3rd Infantry Division should contact Maj. Mary Rezendes ASAP at 435-6289 or *mary.rezendez@conus.army.mil*.

3rd ID Society Reunion slated

The 3rd Infantry Division Society and attached units in wars and in peacetime will hold their 90th reunion, Sept. 16-20.

The reunion will be held at the Clarion Hotel Springfield, 3333 S. Glenstone Ave., Springfield, Mo. 65804; (417) 883-6500.

Room rates are \$84 per night plus tax. Includes a free breakfast and free airport transportation.

For additional reunion information, contact Linda Irvine at (360) 663-2521, or e-mail to *info@thereunion-brat.com*.

90-day rule is back

The "90-day window rule" is coming back into effect. If a Soldier is within 90 days of leaving the service, he or she cannot re-enlist.

Soldiers who want to re-enlist and are within the 90-day window have to submit a DA Form 4187 signed by their company commander and endorsed by their battalion commander.

In the remarks block of the 4187, Soldiers must state why they waited to reenlist.

Balfour Beatty Communities

Neighborhood Huddle

Join us for punch and cookies while we discuss any issues or concerns you may have at this month's Neighborhood Huddle at Hunter from 4-4:30 p.m., May 19 at the Balfour Beatty Leasing Office.

Your feedback is important to us, please take time to fill out our annual housing survey.

'Slip & Slide' into Summer

BBC will be hosting "Slip and Slide into Summer" at Stewart from 4-5 p.m., May 21 at the Liberty Woods Leasing Office, and at Hunter from 4:30-6 p.m., Friday at the BBC Leasing Office. Don't forget to wear your bathing suit!

Children must be accompanied by an adult in order to participate.

STEWART

Dollar giveaway slated

Come into the Liberty Woods Leasing Office anytime from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., May 26-29, and receive \$1 for filling out a survey and register for our weekly drawing for prizes.

For more information about upcoming events, please contact LifeWorks Coordinator, Amber Humphries at 912-408-2478 or *ahumphries@bbcgrp.com*.

RCI Spotlight:

Directorate of Public Works Housing Division Residential Communities Initiative



Alicia Hite became the resident liaison for Directorate of Public Works Residential Communities Initiative Housing Division in August 2008.

As the resident liaison, she assists residents of Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield with any disputes and complaints

that are filed against Balfour Beatty Communities Housing, and she is the mediator between both parties.

Being prior service and having lived in privatized housing, she understands the challenges residents face and is able to effectively communicate with the community managers to resolve any issues.

Hite is currently overseeing the resident survey submission and encourages every resident to participate. The survey is currently on the Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield homepage under the priority information column. You may also pick up a hard copy from the leasing offic-

es/community centers.

Prior to her current assignment, Hite was a human resource assistant in the Department of Human Resources, and she worked at the In/Out Processing Center on Hunter.

She is married to 1st Sgt. Dwayne Hite, 984th Engineer Company, and they have three children.

Hite is an active volunteer and has been a Family Readiness Group leader since March 2008.

You can contact Hite at the Housing Division, building 6509, Apt. 3, or at 767-1378/2990 between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

For more information, visit the Frontline online at www.stewart.army.mil

Education Matters



All College Commencement scheduled

Have you completed your college degree within the last year? Did you recently earn a post-secondary certificate or diploma from a technical school? Are you within 6 SH of completing your requirements? If so, you are invited to participate in the Fort Stewart-Hunter "ACES College Graduation," which has been changed to June 26. It will be held at the Main Post Chapel, Fort Stewart, building 500, at 7 p.m.

Any military, Family Members, retirees, and civilian/contract employees attending "On-Post" Schools (Central Texas College, Columbia College, Embry Riddle, Savannah Tech and Webster University), should contact their college right away. For those attending off-post schools, please complete the electronic "Candidate for Graduation" form on the www.stewart.army.mil Web site under the Services --> Education link.

Forms are also available at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center. Once the form is received, the graduate will be sent a memo with additional information and instructions. We need to know who will actually walk down the aisle in front of their Family and friends. However, if you cannot attend, your name will still be listed in graduation program. For more information, dial 767-8331.

Transition-to-Teachers sessions slated

The Georgia Troops to Teachers Program provides federal funding to qualified servicemembers of up to \$10,000 for becoming public school teachers. Bill Kirkland conducts monthly Transition to Teaching 90-minute classes that consist of an overview of programs, registration procedures and Georgia teacher certification options.

This includes the Georgia Teacher Alternative Preparation Program. GaTAPP is a two-year program that allows those with bachelor degrees to teach and certify at the same time. All military spouses are invited, but they must register with the Military OneSource Center to be provided any financial support. The briefing begins at 10 a.m. and is held at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Education Center. Scheduled sessions are May 20 and June 17. Call 1-800-745-0709 for more information. The official Web site is www.tttga.net.

Teaching certification seminar offered

The Liberty Center Director of Teacher Education Program will conduct Georgia teacher certification seminars focusing on the Armstrong Atlantic State University master of arts in teaching program.

The M.A.T. allows those eligible individuals to pursue a graduate degree and obtain initial teacher certification in Georgia. The monthly sessions are held at 5 p.m. at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Army

Education Center, building 100. Future seminars will be conducted on May 20 and June 17. For more information, please contact Don Stumpf, Director of Teacher Education Programs at 877-1910 or e-mail Don.Stumpf@armstrong.edu.

Savannah Tech information sessions

Savannah Technical College is offering weekly information sessions to explain its college/certificate/diploma programs and the HOPE/PELL grants. The college representatives will highlight a different program of study at 2 p.m., every other Tuesday in room 206, building 100, Fort Stewart. The next meeting on May 19 will cover the Welding and Joining Technology diploma program offered at the Savannah Campus will be presented.

Of special interest to Family Members may be the recently introduced Technical Communication Specialist certificate, which enables much of the curriculum to transfer to area colleges. Many required courses for Savannah Tech's programs are taught at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center. For more information, go to www.savannahtech.edu and www.gsfc.org or call 408-2430 at Stewart. You may also contact the Savannah Tech Campus in Hinesville at 408-3024 or in Savannah, 443-5700.

Free Certification for Soldiers

The pilot Army Vocational/Technical (AVOTEC) Soldier Program will fund up to \$4,500 to enroll in non-college degree courses that teach skills tailored for jobs in today's most in-demand career fields and take certification and licensure exams related to those professions. Soldiers serving on active duty, to include National Guard and Reserve Soldiers on extended active duty, may acquire technical, vocational, or advanced training and re-training.

Several hundred courses are offered for both in-class and on-line programs but must be selected from the schools listed at https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/education/VOTEC_Program.html and cannot exceed 18 months. New schools and programs are added weekly.

In addition, Soldiers can use the AVOTEC Program to pay for Certification/Licensure. Click on the Army Credentialing Opportunities On-line Web site, <https://www.cool.army.mil>, to determine the kind of certification and licensing options available to Soldiers.

Registration for this program is available through Sept. 30 or until the \$19 million allocated funds are exhausted. All information and enrollment steps can be found at the Web site above.

Soldiers must have an active account in GoArmyEd to enroll in AVOTEC. Contact your local Army Education Center for access to the GoArmyEd Portal.

AVOTEC may be used in conjunction with traditional TA, but the combined cost of both programs cannot exceed \$4,500.

Green-to-Gold briefing slated

The Green-to-Gold scholarship sessions are held at the installation education centers every month. On Stewart the briefings are 2 p.m., the first and third Thursday of each month. The Hunter sessions are 2 p.m., the second and fourth Thursday.

College terms announced

The upcoming "Summer Term" dates for both on-post and distance learning classes are listed below. Many courses are offered during the day. Please contact the college directly for course schedules and enrollment information.

Central Texas College – 767-2070/ Hunter Airfield 315-4090, May 25-July 18.

Columbia College – 767-5336/ Hunter Army Airfield, 352-8635, June 1-July 25.

Embry Riddle – 767-3930/ Hunter Army Airfield, 352-5252, June 1-Aug. 2.

Savannah Tech – 408-2430, July 8-Sept. 24.

Webster University – 767-5357/ Hunter Army Airfield, 354-0033, May 25-July 23.

SFAC offers education assistance

The Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith and Hunter Army Airfield Education Centers are supporting our Warriors in Transition by offering accelerated daytime college courses. The classes are being conducted by Central Texas College. To enroll, Warriors must have an account on the GoArmyEd portal. Soldiers attached to Fort Stewart's Warrior Transition Unit can now receive educational and college program advice from their new guidance counselor, Janeen Rosenberg. She is located in the Soldier and Family Assistance Center at 777 E. 10th St or call 767-3328. Warriors at Hunter may see Fay Ward, education center counselor, at building 1290; 767-8331.

E-mail counselor-support made available

Need to reach an Army education counselor? Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield education centers offer a one-stop e-mail address to help. Contact them via e-mail at stewcounselor@conus.army.mil.

Take CLEP, DANTES exams

College Level Examination Program and DANTES Subject Standardized Tests are available on post. Call Columbia College at 877-3406 for more information and testing dates. The exams are free for military personnel. CLEP tests are \$90 and DSSTs are \$100 for non-military examinees.

1/3 BSTB MP platoon trains ASV crews

Pfc. Jared S. Eastman
1st HBCT Public Affairs

Soldiers of the Military Police Platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade, 3rd Special Troops Battalion, conducted Armored Security Vehicle Gunnery at the Multi-Purpose Range Complex on Fort Stewart, May 2-8.

The platoon, having received three new ASVs since their last gunnery, conducted the live-fire exercise to train three new crews.

"Today is the first day of qualification," said Staff Sgt. Kenneth Simmons, MP Plt., HHC, 1/3 BSTB. "We've been out all week training, getting familiar with the weapons and zeroing them. We've been out here for three days and everything is going well, we are currently on Table Six, which is day and night qualification."

The gunnery scoring system incorporates multiple categories, to include crew technique, commands, time lapsed, accuracy, and movement to test each individual crewmember as well as the team.

"Today, we are building on what we've done in the past," said 1st Lt. Vincent Burlazzi, MP Plt. leader, HHC, 1/3 BSTB. "This is our second gunnery. We have three new crews that we are working towards qualification, and today we are already through Table Five and working

on Table Six. Everything is going very well; we had a few kinks in the beginning, but that's to be expected. Our first gunnery was where we really identified any issues, but this second gunnery is really coming through for us."

Although the training went as smooth as possible, the preparations took months.

"It took months and months of planning by the change of command to put this together and weeks and weeks of training with the Soldiers," said Staff Sgt. Simmons. "A lot goes into this training, because this is probably going to the vehicle we are deploying with, so we have to be familiarized with it. This is the MP's primary weapon system, and the MPs are most likely going to go strictly to the ASV in the near future. This is a relatively new vehicle to the MP Corps."

The crew of one ASV had nothing but praise for the design of the vehicle.

"The importance of the ASV is that (it) provides more protection for the crewmembers downrange against vehicle-borne Improvised Explosive Devices and small arms fire because it has more armor, and we have two weapon systems, so we can choose which weapon system would best fit a particular engagement," said Cpl. Brandon Ward, MP Plt. Team Leader, HHC, 1/3 BSTB.

Corporal Ward also stressed the importance of the training.

"The more we train the Soldiers and



Pfc. Jared S. Eastman

An Armored Security Vehicle from MP Platoon, HHC 1/3 BSTB, fires at a target during ASV Gunnery, May 7, at the Multi-Purpose Range Complex. The gunnery was the second one conducted by the MP Plt. to train three new crews.

team leaders, the better off we are going to be when we deploy," he said. "My team has been doing great, I couldn't ask for a better crew – motivated, outstanding and ready to go qualify."

First Lieutenant Burlazzi was adamant about being able to conduct the training.

"There's nothing more rewarding than to take something like this to this level,

especially for Fort Stewart, where there aren't many ASVs on this installation and to have the opportunity to come out to MPRC, and have the teams work together is great," he said. "The ASV is a combat-enabler with various missions, they can provide protection and it's a very effective urban vehicle."

The MP Platoon has plans for a future gunnery in fall.

1/10 Avn continues training in Iraq

1st Lt. Patrick O'Donnell
1/10 Avn.

COB SPEICHER – Despite being forward deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Soldiers, aviators and leaders from 1st Battalion, 10th Aviation Regiment, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, stationed at Hunter Army Airfield, continue to conduct realistic battlefield training.

The Tigersharks have used their time downrange to conduct both small arms ranges and downed air-

crew recovery operations. The small arms range was designed to simulate a downed aircraft in a hostile environment while under attack from enemy fire. The aviators wore their aircraft survival gear and used obstacles such as humvees, tires, and other items to simulate firing from a covered position. Aviators conducted M4 familiarization drills, and the obstacle-based environment provided an excellent training scenario.

"I wanted to conduct a training event replicating as close to a real-world sce-

nario as we could," said Lt. Col. Mike Slocum, Tigershark battalion commander. "By having aviators shoot in their flight gear without ballistic helmets, they were able to gain confidence and proficiency in their personal weapons systems as they would need to employ them should their aircraft go down during a combat mission."

In addition to weapons training, Tigershark aviators participated in a Spur Ride, that taught aviators the proper method for hooking up to the outside

of both the OH-58D Kiowa Warrior, and AH-64D Apache helicopters if the need for immediate evacuation is required. The primary mission of the Kiowa and Apache, both two-pilot aircrafts, is to conduct reconnaissance and engage enemy targets; never troop or cargo movement.

"I would have never known how to fly on the outside of a Kiowa before this training," said Warrant Officer Keith Davis, an Apache pilot.

The Tigersharks will continue to bring the fight



Capt. Lorilyn Woods

Chief Warrant Officer Jeff Crownover, B Co., 1/10 Avn. standardization instructor pilot, supervises as an aviator hooks onto the wing of an AH-64D Apache during Spur Ride training.

to the enemy, and continue the advanced and relevant training ensuring that 1/10

Avn. Soldiers will be ready for any scenario and situation.

Spartan Soldiers train for deployment

Spc. Dustin Gautney
2nd HBCT Public Affairs

No matter how much care and maintenance Soldiers put into combat vehicles, there are times when they can break down due to wear and tear or combat fatigue. For most vehicles, when this happens, they are able to recover themselves; however, for larger combat vehicles such as a Bradley or Abrams tank, there is only one vehicle strong enough to tackle the task of bringing in them home: the M88 or what is commonly referred to as the Hercules.

For Soldiers of 26th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, learning to utilize the Hercules will be vital to their role as recovery teams during the Spartan Brigade's upcoming deployment. More than 20 Soldiers from 26th BSB, 2nd BCT attended the extensive training on the vehicles on Fort Stewart, May 6.

"It's basically a giant tow truck," said Sgt. Shawn Barrick, Company E, 26th BSB, 2nd HBCT, a tank mechanic who

has served four years on recovery teams.

The Hercules recovery vehicles are capable of pulling downed Abrams and Bradley Fighting Vehicles up to 70 tons, using chains, tow bars or wenches. However, the most difficult aspect to master on the M88 is driving the vehicle with so much weight being pulled behind it, Sgt. Barrick said.

"It's pretty difficult pulling vehicles such as an Abrams by the tow bars. There is not much give on the bars during turns so the operators have to be very careful while turning or the bars may break, which would mean another Hercules would have to come out and recover both vehicles," said the Mechanicsburg, Pa. native.

Civilian contractors from Tank-automotive and Armaments Command as well as BAE Systems who manufacture the \$2 million vehicles helped instruct the Soldiers on the Hercules.

"It's been pretty cool being out here and giving guidance to new Soldiers who have not worked with the Hercules,"



Pfc. Gregory Gieske

During M88-A2 training, Leo Everett of Camber Corp. scouts out a new location point for Sgt. Jonathan Smith, Co. B, 26th BSB, 2nd BCT, 3rd ID, as he operates the heavy towing vehicle also known as the Hercules, May 6.

Sgt. Barrick said. "For me, I think the best has been learning from the civilians who actually build the vehicles. The best part of the M88 is that no matter how long you have worked with them, you are always learning something new."

For many of the Soldiers attending

the training, it was their first time behind the wheel of the Hercules.

"It has been pretty fun out here," said Pvt. John Espen, Company B, 26th BSB. "This is definitely not like any vehicle I've ever driven."

FAREWELL

from Page 1A



Spc. Gaelen Lowers

Erin McGuire, wife of 1st Lt. Robert McGuire, 260th QM Bn., kisses her husband before he deploys for Iraq, May 9.

"I'm trying to keep it together," said Erin McGuire, wife of 1st Lt. Robert McGuire, 260th QM Bn. "I have plans to move back to Michigan and live with Family, keep busy and find hobbies."

Other spouses were a little more prepared, but still not completely comfortable, for the time they would have to spend away from their significant other.

"I've been through this before, and it doesn't get any easier the second time around," said Chelsea Smith, Family Care Team Leader and wife of Capt. Steven Smith, 260th QM Bn. "I try to help other spouses deal with the pain of separation."

For more information on Family Readiness Groups, call 912-767-7163.

PURPLE

from Page 1A

"Death touched him twice," Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo said. "His willingness to face death again is admirable."

The Purple Heart is the oldest decoration of military merit still in use today. It was originally created to recognize outstanding valor and served to hold the Army together by honoring and rewarding great performance in the field during the Revolutionary War. Today, the Purple Heart is awarded to service members wounded or killed in combat.

Soon Capt. McDonough will medically retire and return to Miami, Fla. with his wife and two daughters.

"It is an honor to receive this award and to have everyone come out to this ceremony," Capt. McDonough said. "The Army values are all I know and I will transition into civilian life with the same commitment to excellence and mission focus that I gained in the Army."



Elise Van Pool

Capt. Darren H. McDonough was awarded his second Purple Heart, by 3rd ID Commander, Maj. Gen. Tony Cucolo, May 12.

Congratulations, Fort Stewart on your Army Communities of Excellence Award!


We are proud to serve where you serve.

VISIT OUR BRANCH:
Central Station Plaza, 790 Frank Cochran Drive, Suite 107
Hinesville, GA

NOT A MEMBER? JOIN TODAY! Serving Army, Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force active duty, retired, reserve, National Guard, DoD civilians and their families.

1-888-842-6328 navyfederal.org

Federally insured by NCUA. Copyright © 2009 Navy Federal NFCU 11196-A (5-09)

NAVY 
FEDERAL
Credit Union

ASK THE JUDGE: Step-parent adoption in Georgia

Capt. Daniel D'Isidoro
Legal Assistance Office

Hey Judge, I recently got married and my wife has a child from a previous relationship, and I was thinking about adopting the child.

Q: *What requirements must I meet for a step-parent adoption in Georgia?*

A: In Georgia, you must be at least 25 years of age or married and living with your spouse; you must be at least 10 years older than the child; you must have been a bona fide resident of Georgia for at least six months prior to filing the petition; and you must be financially, physically, and mentally able to have permanent custody of the child.

Q: *What exactly does an adoption do?*

A: An adoption is the legal process of terminating an existing relationship between a biological and/or legal parent and substituting a new parent in his place. An adoption will eliminate all rights and duties a biological and/or legal parent may have (i.e. custodial and visitation rights, inheritance rights, and child support obligations) absolutely and forever and grants those rights to the adopting parent without exception. All adoptions require court proceedings to terminate the biological and/or legal parent's rights and to

establish the adoptive parent's rights.

Q: *Is there a difference between a biological parent and a legal parent?*

A: Yes. Generally the child's biological mother is the child's legal mother. The biological father, however, is not necessarily the legal father. The legal father of a child is a man who was either married to the birth mother when the child was conceived or born; married the birth mother after the child's birth and recognized the child as his own; has adopted the child; has been determined by a court to be the legal father of the child in either a paternity or Legitimation action; or has signed an Acknowledgement of Legitimation with the mother before the child is over one year of age. In addition, the legal father must not have "surrendered" his parental rights, nor had those rights terminated by a court.

Therefore, it is possible that a child may have a different legal father from his biological father. If this is the case, the court will need to terminate both the legal father and the biological father's rights before it can grant the step-parent adoption.

Q: *How is the legal father's rights terminated?*

A: Legal parents' rights can

only be terminated by a court, and the court must find by "clear and convincing" evidence that this would be in the best interest of the child.

The legal father may consent to the termination of his rights in writing, yet the court must still approve the termination. Georgia is very specific as to the language that must be in the Surrender of Rights, so if the legal father is willing to sign a Surrender of Rights, schedule an appointment with a legal assistance attorney who will provide you with the proper Surrender of Rights forms.

A court may also involuntarily terminate a legal father's rights if the court finds abuse, abandonment, or neglect.

Q: *How is a biological father's rights terminated?*

A: A biological father can also sign a Surrender of Rights to have his rights terminated. Otherwise his rights will be terminated if he fails to go to court and petition to legitimate the child within 30 days from his receipt of notice of the adoption.

Q: *What if I cannot find the legal or biological father?*

A: Generally, Georgia law provides the legal and/or biological father has a right to know about the adoption, and before a court grants the adoption it may require proof of notice. If the petitioner provides evidence of a "diligent search" to try to find the

father (i.e. called the father's friends and family members, checked telephone directories, and conducted online searches such as Google, MySpace, and Facebook), a court may approve notice by publication in newspapers in the county where the adoption petition is being filed and in the county of the father's last known address.

Q: *What if the legal or biological father does not want to sign the Surrender of Rights, can I still go forward with the adoption?*

A: While the adoption process is simplified if the legal and/or biological father will sign the Surrender of Rights, their refusal to sign does not necessarily preclude you from moving forward. If for a period of one year or longer prior to the adoption, the legal and/or biological father failed to meaningfully communicate or attempt to meaningfully communicate with the child, or if he has failed to provide court-ordered care and support for the child, the court may still grant the adoption.

Q: *Can I adopt my former spouse's child?*

A: Yes. The Georgia Court of Appeals has held that there is no time restriction for a step-parent adoption. If the petitioner married the minor child's legal mother subsequent to the child's birth, he could still petition for a

step-parent adoption despite the fact that he had subsequently divorced the child's mother. You will still need to go to court to establish custodial and visitation rights and set up a child support amount.

Q: *If my step-child is receiving Social Security survivor's benefits because his legal father is deceased, will my adoption of him terminate those benefits?*

A: No. The adoption of a child already entitled to survivor's benefits does not terminate the child's benefits.

Q: *If I adopt my step-child and then I later get divorced from the child's mother, will I be responsible for child support payments?*

A: Yes. When considering a step-parent adoption it is important to recognize the possibility of a subsequent divorce. If you were to later divorce your spouse, you would be liable for providing child support to that child.

For more information or assistance on step-parent adoptions, make an appointment to speak with a legal assistance attorney. Fort Stewart – building 621, call 767-8809/8819; Hunter - building 1211, call 315-5115.

NAMED

from Page 1A

Specialist Williams' alleged involvement began Saturday afternoon as Fort Stewart law enforcement officials attempted to stop a motorcyclist for excessive speeding and reckless driving on post. The biker refused to stop

and continued off post where the pursuit was assumed by Liberty County officials.

When the pursuit continued beyond their jurisdiction on I-95 South, McIntosh County Sheriffs continued to follow the motorcyclist.

The four pursuing sheriff's patrol cars collided, ending the chase. The motorcyclist fled the scene without apprehension.

A cooperative investigation began between Fort Stewart lead-

ership and McIntosh County Sheriff's Office identifying Spc. Williams' and his alleged involvement in the incident.

Spc. Williams is an electronics technician and has


been assigned to the unit since June 2008. He deployed with the brigade for Operation Iraqi Freedom from August 2008 to January 2009.

\$1,000 REWARD OFFERED (0355-08-CID093-40571)

A reward of \$1,000 is being offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person(s) responsible for an armed robbery, which occurred on Oct. 24, 2008, at building 3004, Fort Stewart, Ga., 31314.

Anyone having knowledge of the incident, but not wishing to be identified, will be briefed on available options in maintaining their confidentiality.

The payout of cash rewards to military and federal employees for information leading to a conviction is contingent upon exceptional actions regarding the information provided. Those with information concerning this matter are encouraged to call the U.S. Army CID office located at Fort Stewart, Ga. at (912) 767-5030 (POC is SA LAWRENCE), or the Military Police Desk, Fort Stewart, Ga. (912) 767-4895. REWARD OFFER EXPIRES ON: April 20, 2010.



For more information, visit the Frontline online at www.stewart.army.mil

Are you advertising?

YOUR CUSTOMERS WANT TO KNOW YOU'RE GOING TO BE THERE
FOR THE LONG TERM.

To advertise, call us at (912) 876-0156.

THE FRONTLINE

SMALL WORLD Festival!

AN INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, MAY 16TH

11AM - 6PM

LIBERTY COUNTY COURTHOUSE SQUARE
112 NORTH MAIN STREET
HINESVILLE, GA

INTERNATIONAL FOOD COURT ♦ WORLD MARKETPLACE ♦ ENTERTAINMENT



FOR MORE INFO:
CALL: (912) 877-4332
VISIT: DISCOVERLIBERTYGA.COM
EMAIL: DISCOVERDOWNTOWN@COASTALNOW.NET

HINESVILLE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

MWR

Soldiers, Family Members help reduce blood shortage

Pfc. Jared S. Eastman
1st HBCT Public Affairs

A long line of people can be seen inside Caro Gym, as Soldiers and Families wait to donate blood at the 1st Brigade, 3rd Special Troops Battalion Red Cross blood drive, May 1. Although 160 Soldiers and Family Members signed up for the event, walk-ins came in all day to donate blood to people in need.

"Today we are running a blood drive for the Red Cross, and we have around 160 names that signed up, and we have more walk-ins," said Sgt. Laura Hampton, detail manager for 1/3 BSTB. "This is our second blood drive we've had since we (re-deployed)."

The number of people signed up for the event already surpassed the battalion's last blood drive in January, where the battalion collected 86 pints of blood.

"We started the planning in March," said Lt. Col. Richard Hansen, 1/3 BSTB commander, "Where we set a date and made a goal with the Road Cross then

started advertising. They say that the life you save may be your own, but more importantly, one donation of blood is used in a lot of different ways. One donation can save up to three lives, but more importantly, in an agreement between the Army and the Red Cross, the blood that we donate today is made available to the Army blood system, so every pint we donate today will be available to the Army free of charge."

Wendy Boykin, Red Cross supervisor in charge of the 13 volunteers at the event, was also surprised with the turnout.

"We expected 75 donors and we have 160 sign-ups with walk-ins still coming in," said Boykin. "But we have enough collectors to get the job done. It's challenging to be a Red Cross Supervisor, but today is going very well. It's an excellent job and I love what I do."

Boykin also encouraged all to come out, but more specifically, men.

"Donating blood is great for men," she said, "Because that is the only way that they can replenish their blood, but it's a

good cause either way. You're eligible to donate blood six times a year."

The battalion and the Red Cross had been planning the blood drive since March, the donation process went by without a problem for Spc. Mark Toler, Company A, 1/3 BSTB.

"I came to work, gave some blood and now I'm just eating some cookies and recovering," Spc. Toler said with a grin. "I feel great about donating blood. It's great to be able to give the gift of life back to people; maybe I'll need it someday, so hopefully others will donate. The entire procedure went very smoothly. I got here pretty early, and I kind of jumped in front of people to donate, but it's going great."

Soldiers of 1/3 BSTB who donated got more than just the knowledge that they saved a life for donating. Blood donors also got the day off.

"I think it's great that we get the day off," said Spc. Toler. "You should give blood either way, but it's awesome that our chain of command gives it to us as a thank you."

The day off is a tradition



Pfc. Jared Eastman

Soldiers donated blood at Caro Gym, May 1. The Red Cross used 13 assistants to screen and collect blood with the help of Soldiers from 1/3 BSTB who volunteered to help.

among some battalions, and is an added incentive for Soldiers to give blood. Lieutenant Colonel Hansen also had a lot to say about the incentive.

"It's always been a tradition for Soldiers to get the day off after giving blood," said Lt. Col. Hansen, "But it's a good incentive, and that's why we tend to pick a Friday to do this because they can come in early to donate then have the rest of the day off."

Lieutenant Colonel Hansen

was quick to thank the Soldiers who volunteered to help with the blood drive.

"We couldn't do it without a lot of help from the Soldiers," he said. "They are the ones who volunteered for these details. Some of the same Soldiers that volunteered for the last one came back again because they had a good time."

The 1/3 BSTB ended the blood drive with 84 pints of blood that will be used in local hospitals to save lives.

BENEFIT

from Page 1A

The house bill expands the residency requirements for the Georgia HOPE Scholarship. The children of active duty military members stationed in Georgia are now considered residents of the state immediately, rather than having to wait a year to establish residency, for purposes of HOPE scholarships and grants. Both bills were signed May 7.

"Previously, Soldiers and adult Family Members were established residents of the state immediately, but dependent students had to wait a year to establish residency," said Pamela King, education services officer for Directorate of Human Resources at Fort Stewart. "With House Bill 484, which goes into law July 1, they are deemed residents immediately; this law appears to waive the one-year wait period."

"Obviously anything that's extended down to dependent children without a wait period is a good thing, it extends access to them," King said. "It's a big deal

as it relates to the HOPE scholarship, because (before) they had to wait a year to go to college (under the grant) unless they graduated from high school here. Now they can go to school in the fall with the Hope scholarship."

ACS exceeds Army standards

A team from the Installation Management Command, Southeast Region inspected the Stewart-Hunter ACS last week. The four-day visit looked at every ACS program: Family Advocacy (prevention and treatment), Exceptional Family Member (ACS and medical), Mobilization/Deployment, Army Family Team Building, Army Family Action Plan, Financial Readiness, Army Volunteer Corps, Relocation Readiness, Employment Readiness, ACS structure, and management, said ACS marketing specialist Lynda Purcell.

"The inspection reviewed 150 Category 1 standards for compliance with public

laws, Department of Defense instructions and Army regulations, and 58 Category 2 standards for compliance with social services standards of practice," Purcell said. "In addition to a thorough inspection of ACS records, interviews were conducted with commanders, installation staff, volunteers, and ACS program managers."

The ACS earned its accreditation with commendation, earning 286 of 290 possible points. The inspection's findings were presented to Stewart-Hunter garrison commander Col. Todd Buchs during a briefing May 8. Purcell said the ACS strengths that were identified by the inspection and presented in the briefing include:

- a dedicated, energetic, compassionate and professional staff
- strong relationships with local community organizations
- a strong commitment from staff to ensure Soldiers and Family Members are receiving financial training and guidance

• great systems in place for deployment cycle support

• excellent involvement with Family Readiness Groups and the reintegration process

• strong working relationships with senior spouse advisors and command

• strong volunteer support

• increased partnerships with off-post volunteer agencies

• outstanding lesson plans and curricula

ACS provides information, guidance, assistance, or problem-solving in personal or Family matters that are beyond the Family's own resources.

"I am so proud of my team for their hard work and dedication to our Soldiers and Family Members" said ACS director Donna Finney. "While they work in ACS because they care about people, it's nice to hear that our team stands out for its best practices and exemplary services and support."

Infantrymen illustrate Army life to JROTC

Staff Sgt. Tanya Polk
4th IBCT Public Affairs

Thirty Florida high school students got a taste of Soldiering as Vanguard Brigade Troops hosted their visit to Fort Stewart, May 8.

Soldiers with Company A, 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, showed members



JROTC cadet Brian Saldivar, 16, peers through night vision goggles as Cpl. Matthew Horejsi, Co. A, 3/7 Inf., helps demonstrate the use of military equipment during Coconut Creek High School's JROTC visit to Fort Stewart, May 8.

of Coconut Creek High School's Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps a day in the life of an infantryman and provided the cadets with a tour of the Marne Division.

"We're not trying to promote the military necessarily," said Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Corris J. Sworn, Coconut Creek JROTC instructor. "We are using its leadership, education and training to motivate these students to become better citizens.

"Most of the kids wanted to come to Fort Stewart because they heard about the infantry here," continued Sworn, a retired infantryman and former Dog Face Soldier. "They love the infantry."

The A Co. infantrymen showcased their weapons including the M-249 Squad Automatic Weapon and the .50 caliber machine gun. They also gave Coconut Creek cadets the chance to suit up as a Soldier as the youths tried on full combat body armor.

"Our intent is to show them the 'cool stuff,' the exciting aspect of the Army life," said Staff Sgt. Jason Norton, A Co. squad leader.

Staff Sergeant Norton's squad also demonstrated military formations, tactical movements and the Engagement Skills Trainer 2000. Furthermore, the cadets' tour included a taste of "Army chow" at the Vanguard Dining Facility – which many students said they favored over school lunches – a 3rd Infantry Division history lesson at the Fort Stewart museum, and a visit to Warriors Walk.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Tanya Polk

Corporal Scott Nevitt, Co. A, 3/7 Inf., adjusts the site picture of an M-249 SAW for JROTC student Samantha Mancuso, 16. Mancuso was one of 30 Coconut Creek High School JROTC students who got to experience the Army life during a visit to Fort Stewart, May 8.

"There are some (JROTC students) who are going to choose to join the Army, some Marines, and some who might not make the military a career at all, but I think (this visit) helps broaden their horizons a little bit," Staff Sgt. Norton said.

He added that the JROTC visit will also help mitigate some of the stereotypes society has associated with the Army.

"This visit is another way to show support for the community," Staff Sgt. Norton said. "Hopefully, now, (the students) can go tell their friends and their family that

the military is not that bad."

Staff Sergeant Norton said that though the military is not for everybody, visiting Fort Stewart helped to give the students an opportunity to decide just what is right for them.

Sworn shared similar sentiments.

"The Soldiers taught the students that you can support your country and your community," Sworn said. "And I hope one day that (these JROTC cadets) can do the same thing. These (students) are the future."

Getting down and dirty: Soldiers prep for deployment with IRT

Spc. Gaelen Lowers
3rd Sustainment Bde. Public Affairs

When it comes to readying Soldiers for the hardships of deployment, Soldiers from the Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Sustainment Brigade pull out all the stops.

The company conducted the individual readiness training for approximately 63 Soldiers from the 90th Human Resources Company and the 24th Finance Company, May 4-8.

"The IRT is set up to prepare Soldiers for what they might face in Iraq, Kuwait, Afghanistan or wherever they might be deployed," said Sgt. 1st Class Torrey McKinny, the noncommissioned officer in charge of the STB training, and coordinator of the IRT. "It's mandatory training for all 3rd Infantry Division Soldiers to go through, and we're going by the 3rd ID standard."

The week-long training was set up in a round robin style of training where Soldiers broke up into groups and moved from training station to training station, said Sgt. 1st Class McKinny. The stations were: move, fight, communicate; weapons training; first aid; and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear training.

"It's basically a little bit of everything," said Spc. Athena Cleaves, 90th HR Co. "From buddy movement to convoys, it's definitely good training."



Spc. Gaelen Lowers

Specialist Anthony Falcone, 24th Finance Co., STB, 3rd Sustainment Bde., holds off the enemy during the final stage of training during Individual Readiness Training, May 4-8.

All the work that the Soldiers and trainers put in culminated with a convoy situation where they had to incorporate everything they had learned throughout the week.

"We are at the grand finale," said Sgt. 1st Class McKinny. "This scenario will make use those tasks they learned and give them a taste of what they might encounter while down range."

The exercise began with Soldiers gearing up and leav-

ing in a convoy. They checked the road sides for improvised explosive devices, which, according to an online defense link, is the number one cause of casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Soldiers then came to a check point in the road that had secretly been overrun by insurgents. The insurgents were played by the trainers at the IRT site.

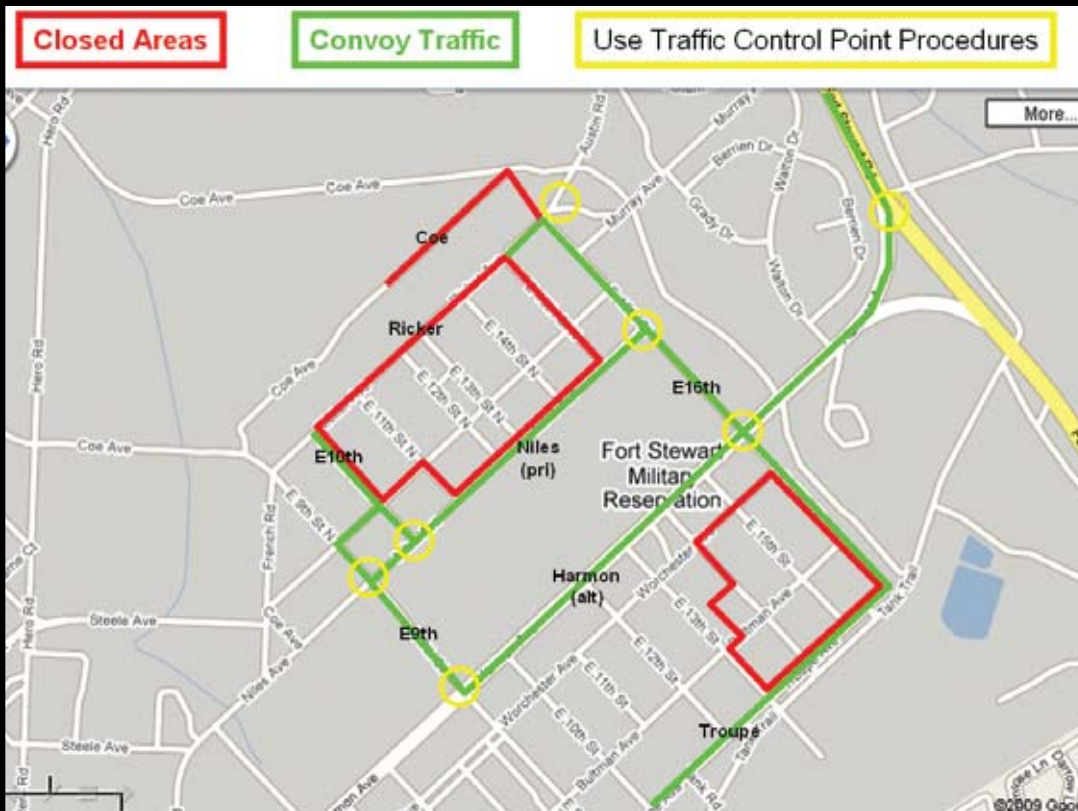
When the insurgents turned hostile, the Soldiers had to get themselves out of the situation by using what they learned. They had to react to the enemy flanking them from all sides, treat wounded Soldiers, put on their CBRN masks while in a firefight and stay calm in the middle of a hectic situation.

"The Soldiers have been motivated all week," said Sgt. 1st Class McKinny. "They're getting a taste of what it might be like over in Iraq."

The 90th HR Co. and the 24th Finance Co. pleased everyone by performing extraordinarily well, said Lt. Col. Russell Holscher, commander for the STB. The training will serve them well when they deploy, he added.

"This training is life saving; you never know when you will have to use these tasks," said Sgt. 1st Class McKinny. "The goal is that they don't have to use these tasks. That means it was a safe deployment, but just in case, they need to know these basic Soldiering skills. It's good training, and it needs to be done."

Staying alert and safe, sharing the road



Capt. Charles Patterson
188th Inf. Bde. Public Affairs

You may notice more traffic lately in and around Fort Stewart – lower speed limits, and more tactical vehicles on Routes 144 and 119. The increase in traffic volume for the next few months is due to the mobilization of the 41st IBCT and the heavy training schedule of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division.

“Listen to the radio for updates on traffic patterns,” said installation safety representative Chris McCormick. “Avoid the Georgia Garrison Training Center if possible as you travel on and off post.”

The Installation Safety Office and the 188th Infantry Brigade Safety Office have worked together

to identify the traffic patterns that will effect drivers in and out of Fort Stewart.

Safety points you should know:

1. Be prepared to stop for military convoys at all hours of the day.

2. Be extra careful in the low light, peak traffic hours of 5:30 a.m. to 8 a.m., and in the evenings after sundown.

3. Avoid using intersections along East 16th Street if possible.

4. Military Police and traffic enforcement are monitoring speeds along the highways and the tank trails. Safe speeds save lives!

See the map for areas that are critical in your travels in and around Fort Stewart.

Stay alert and safe!

Stewart MOB helps 41st through readiness process

Capt. Charles Patterson
188th Inf. Bde. Public Affairs

As the 41st Brigade Combat Team arrives at the mobilization site, their first mission is to navigate through the lines and stations at the Mower gymnasium where they conduct the Soldier Readiness Process.

“We make sure everything runs smoothly here,” said Charles Crossley, a mobilization planner at Fort Stewart. “Nine out of the 12 validation pieces for the Soldier happens right here.”

Five or six control officers from the Mobilization Operations Center help the Oregon National Guard Soldiers through the stations, answering their questions and pointing them in the right direction.

“If there is a bottleneck, we adjust fire and move soldiers accordingly,” said Sgt. First Class Jeffery Haynes, a MOC control officer.

“If there are any issues with a packet, we notify the Soldier’s chain of command so that they have time to correct it,” said control and action officer Staff Sgt. Sheila Bradley.

The SRP starts months prior to arriving at Fort Stewart as a unified process from the Army National Guard to the Title Ten

Federal orders that the 41st now comes under.

“We set up two mobilization sites in Oregon, one in Salem and the other in Medford, on two weekends, running them simultaneously,” said Chief Warrant Officer James Reith, the Military Readiness Mobilization Officer for Oregon’s mobilization G1 and G3.

According to Chief Reith, the SRP in Oregon ran smoothly, keeping the unit administrative data in the drill halls and the medical close by. Trailers with hearing and dental stations were parked outside the halls. So far, he has overseen the SRP of about 2,800 Oregon Soldiers.

“Sometimes the mobilization timeline is too fast for the process,” he said, and it takes time for medical and finance paperwork to follow the Soldier, causing some delays. These get resolved as the records catch up here at Fort Stewart and Soldiers receive their mobilization orders. He has seen it before.

Chief Reith has been working with SRPs for 18 years and said he’s pleased with the way things are going and the amount of support he’s receiving from the MOC.

Staff Sgt. Timothy Delany, Company A, 141st BSB, has been through his share of SRP before, having deployed to Afghanistan a few years ago.

“It’s a process. You just got to be patient,” he said coolly. “It’s good to see SRP control NCOs, though. To have some permanence and direction in this helps, and the air conditioning is good, too. This is nice.”

Another helpful part of the team is the 20 contractors and Department of the Army Civilians working under the guidance of the post Adjutant General’s office. They provide continuity and a friendly face as the Soldiers reach each data entry point for the Deployment and Reconstitution Tracking Software.

“Personnel and finance are here everyday between 7 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.,” said Terry Taylor, lead contractor for the installation Adjutant General. “We mobilize Reserve and National Guard units, and have the other stations here to do that everyday,” he said.

Instead of Soldiers having to travel around post for their medical checks, ID cards, finance and legal validations, everything is under one roof, and has been since the late 1990’s. But it was not until 2002



Capt. Charles Patterson

Charles Crossley (farright), mobilization planner for Directorate Plans Training Mobility Security at Fort Stewart, checks by one of the stations to ensure progress as soldiers from the 41st BCT complete their Readiness Process.

when the Mower Gym was fully established as the mobilization SRP building it is today.

“Soldiers shouldn’t have to go everywhere on a post to get in-processed,” said Fort Stewart’s Adjutant General Judy Waynick. Recently at a conference in Kansas City, she spoke to other installation AG managers that were still sending Soldiers to multiple locations for in-processing.

“This post is an Army model and others are following the one-stop idea,” Waynick added. “And it’s going to get better.”

In fact, the Mower Gym will be closing for a year-long renovation

this fall, adding a second floor and Veterans Affairs.

Contractors like Crossley, the MOC team, the 188th Training Support Brigade, the Fort Stewart AG, and the dozens of garrison support organizations are working together to make the SRP of the 41st Oregon National Guard a success.

“The SRC is the check part of the process,” said Crossley. “It’s the verification that everything is good in the system.” And this means that the Soldier is ready for the next station in the mobilization process.